REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The Office Action dated February 6, 2006, has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

Claims 1, 2, 4-6 and 18 are rejected to by the Examiner. Claim 1 has been amended. Claims 1, 2, 4-6 and 18 remain pending in this application.

In the Office Action, claims 1, 2, 4 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,752,241 to Matsuoka (hereinafter "Matsuoka") in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,680,505 to Funada (hereinafter "Funada"). Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsuoka in view of Funada and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 2,988,725 to Vallee (hereinafter "Vallee"). Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsuoka in view of Funada and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,035,655 to Hesse (hereinafter "Hesse").

The rejection of claims 1, 2, 4 and 18 is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested. Claims 1, 2, 4 and 18 are allowable over the cited references in that each of these claims recites a combination of elements including, for example, "a second curved wing for directly contacting a portion of the wire." None of the cited references including Mastuoka and Funada, singly or in combination, teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention.

In the Office Action, the Examiner identifies the connector-side terminal 5b of the terminal member 5 as the "second curved wing for directly contacting a portion of the wire." The connector-side terminal 5b is clearly shown in Figs. 2 and 4 as having a straight and flat structure. It is not curved at all and is not a wing. Funada fails to cure this deficiency as well. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1, 2, 4 and 18 are allowable over the cited references.

Further, claims 5 and 6 are allowable over Mastuoka and Funada because they depend from claim 1. Neither Vallee nor Hesse cure the deficiencies of Mastuoka and Funada identified above, so claims 5 and 6 are allowable over the cited art.

Applicants believe the foregoing amendments place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. *A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.*

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: May 5, 2006 By _____
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